CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A system for cleaning a print head of an inkjet cartridge of a printer, said print head having a total number of ejection ports thereon, comprising:

a sealing member having first and second ends;

a conduit defined by said member;

a first opening of said conduit at said first end of said sealing member, said first opening having a cross-sectional area, said first end of said member being fluidly connected to a pressure controller, said pressure controller used to control the pressure in said conduit; and

a second opening of said conduit at said second end of said sealing member, said second opening having a second cross-sectional area, said second opening of said conduit being adapted to form sealed fluid communications with one of said number of ejection ports.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional area of said second opening is smaller than the cross-sectional area of said first opening.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said conduit narrows cross-sectionally from said first end to said second end.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said second opening is defined in a printhead engaging sealing surface, said sealing surface creating said sealed fluid communication with one of said number of ejection ports.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said pressure controller comprises a syringe, said syringe having a housing which slideably receives a plunger which when activated decreases or increases the pressure in a chamber defined by said plunger and said housing, said chamber opening through a sealing-member receiver, said receiver adapted to sealingly receive said sealing member and enable fluid communications between said chamber and said conduit in said sealing member.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said receiver is a stem protruding from said syringe housing.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said first end of said member defines a stem engaging internal surface for engagedly receiving and holding said stem of said syringe. having a stem conduit narrows cross-sectionally from said second to first ends.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein said syringe has an external engagement configuration comprising internal threads.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said first end of said member includes an outer surface adapted to receive said internal threads of said syringe external engagement arrangement forming a seal therebetween.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the second opening is adapted to fluidly communicate with a plurality of said ejection ports at once.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the cross-sectional area of said second opening is larger than the cross-sectional area of said first opening.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said conduit widens cross-sectionally from said first end to said second end.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein said second opening is defined in a printhead engaging sealing surface, said sealing surface creating said sealed fluid communication with one of said plurality of said ejection ports.

14. The system of claim 10 wherein said pressure controller comprises a syringe, said syringe having a housing which slideably receives a plunger which when moved decreases or increases the pressure in a chamber defined by said plunger and said housing, said chamber opening through a sealing-member receiver, said receiver adapted to sealingly receive said sealing member and enable fluid communications between said chamber and said conduit in said sealing member.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said receiver is a stem protruding from said syringe housing.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said first end of said member defines a stem engaging internal surface for engagedly receiving and holding said stem of said syringe.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein said syringe has an external engagement configuration comprising internal threads.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said first end of said member includes an outer surface adapted to receive said internal threads of said syringe external engagement arrangement forming a seal therebetween.

19. The system of claim 10 wherein the second opening is adapted to fluidly communicate with substantially all of the plurality of ejection ports at once.

20. A method for cleaning a print head of an inkjet cartridge of a printer, said print head having a plurality of ejection ports thereon, comprising:

administering suction to one of said ports to clean said at least one of said ports.

21. The method of claim 20, comprising:

simultaneously administering suction to all of said plurality of said ejection ports to clean said plurality.

22. A method for cleaning a print head of an inkjet cartridge of a printer, said print head having a plurality of ejection ports thereon, comprising:

simultaneously administering suction to all of said plurality of said ejection ports to clean said plurality.